



Roger G. Altena
Newaygo County Sheriff
Michael S. Mercer, Undersheriff

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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August 10, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 92-77 Opposition to Billed Party Preference

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing this letter to inform you I am very much against the application of Billed Party Preference (BPP) at inmate facilities.

In our facility, we have a single carrier that is equipped to handle inmate calls and with whom we have a contractual agreement. We cannot allow our inmates to have open access to the telecommunications network and the freedom to use any carrier they please. BPP will take away our right to use a carrier we know and trust and who are trained to handle inmate calls.

We have installed phone equipment in our facility specifically designed for inmate calls. Without the help of inmate phone service providers, we could not afford to provide this equipment. BPP would eliminate the revenue that finances our inmate phones and we would not have the inmate phone service providers to assist us. Our inmates would be devastated, tension would increase, and our staff would have more problems without inmate phones.

I am very sensitive to the rates families pay for inmate calls. I believe the solution would be to adopt rate ceilings on inmate calls and then let Sheriffs enforce these rate ceilings through their contracts. I want to keep rates fair and reasonable.

BPP would hinder security and administrative measures at our facility. It would reduce inmate phone availability and cause more problems for our staff. I am very much opposed to Billed Party Preference!

Sincerely,


Roger G. Altena, Sheriff
Newaygo County

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RGA/slm

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Operators of Fine Hotels

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

1700 Rockville Pike, Suite 200, Rockville, MD. 20852

(301) 468-0707

FAX (301) 881-7112

August 9, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N. W., Room 814
Washington, D. C. 20554

Doc. 92-77

Dear Sir:

It has just come to my attention that the FCC is considering a proposal to enact a regulation commonly referred to as the "BPP." We are in the hotel business and we are not one of those groups of hotels that have been represented in recent newspaper articles that are gouging the public and charging improperly. We are making appropriate charges for the services rendered and get very few complaints on our hotel charges. If the BPP rule is enacted, we would lose a considerable amount of our income and would be put at a terrible disadvantage with regard to supplying telephone facilities to our guests. It might even cause us to increase our rates to everyone as opposed to having reasonable rates and charging for the use of the telephone. At the present time we are losing considerable revenue by users of the telephone system dialing around and they have adequate ability to do this for their preference, but at the same time we are able to capture sufficient revenue to pay for the telephone equipment, our local charges and long distance line charges, our in-house operator and telephone equipment to enable us to answer the telephone and to service our guests. Free enterprise keeps us from overcharging and eventually the guest gets the best deal by us being competitive. We do not need regulations that give the guests undue advantage and in the long run they will be gouged by some of the providers as they are now being gouged by some of the providers. I urge you not to enact the regulation.

Sincerely,

Ralph H. Deckelbaum/clr
Ralph H. Deckelbaum
President

RHD:clr

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

July 20, 1994

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

Doc. 92-77

Re: CC Docket #92-77

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing to voice my concerns about the proposed Billed Party Preference regulation. The correctional facility inmate phone industry would be severely jeopardized by BPP, affecting inmates, their families and the criminal justice system as a whole. *For this reason, we are asking that inmate calls be exempt from the proposed BPP regulation.*

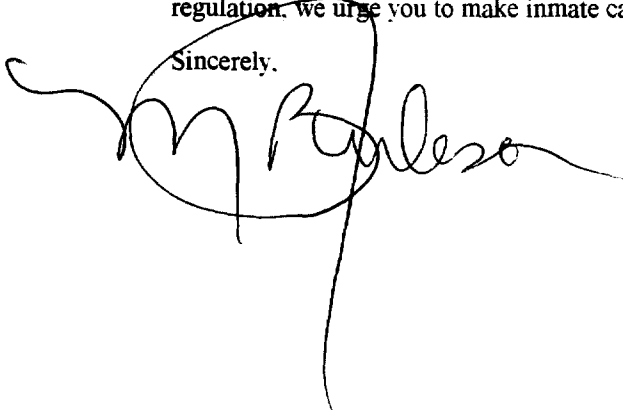
Over the past ten years, administrators of correctional facilities have been able to put into place a very effective system for allowing inmate phone calls. The right to choose our phone service provider has been key to our success. This service has always been delivered to us at very reasonable rates. What's more, inmate phone commissions have been a significant source of revenue for our facility and have helped us improve it dramatically. *We use this revenue to fund various programs including: law enforcement education; inmate health, education and recreation; jail personnel safety; drug prevention and other community programs; family visitation etc.*

Here are a few of my biggest concerns about Billed Party Preference:

- It strips correctional facility administrators of the right to choose inmate phone providers.
- Technology for BPP would reportedly cost upwards of \$1.5 billion, an expense that would have to be passed along to the consumer.
- Without the authority to process calls, inmate phone providers would no longer have the revenue to provide the sophisticated phone systems used in prisons. The end result: fewer phones with fewer security features. Facilities would have to revert to the old ways of supervising each and every inmate call.
- The average length of stay in jail would increase because inmates would not have the phone privileges required to make arrangements for obtaining bond. *This costs everyone!*
- Under BPP, correctional facilities would no longer have control over inmate calls, which means no call tracking or blocking. Inmates could conceivably harass judges, witnesses, jury members or even the victims of their crimes.
- Without call control, facilities would be unable to control fraud problems currently handled by inmate phone providers.

For the above reasons, and countless others, we believe that THE COSTS OF BILLED PARTY PREFERENCE FOR INMATE CALLS FAR OUTWEIGH THE BENEFITS. If BPP does become regulation, we urge you to make inmate calls exempt. Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,



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